

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and system for treating a vulnerable plaque associated with a blood vessel of a patient is disclosed. The method includes rupturing a fibrous  
5 cap of the vulnerable plaque. A portion of liquid contents of the vulnerable plaque are released into a blood vessel lumen as a result of the fibrous cap rupture. The method further includes capturing at least one of any emboli present within the blood vessel as a result of the fibrous cap rupture. The system includes a rupture device that ruptures a fibrous cap of the vulnerable  
10 plaque and a capture device that captures at least one embolus within the blood vessel.